GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1948
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2000
TOY TRAIN IN DARJEELING
A. KRISHNASWAMY

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether UNESCO has taken a serious note of the crude changes made by the Railways in the Toy Train in Darjeeling, the Century old steam engines have been partially replaced with diesel locomotives; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon? ANSWER

Answer

(MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS) (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) & (b) Darjeeling − Himalayan Railways (DHR) has already been awarded a world heritage site by the UNESCO. However, on the issue of introduction of two diesel locomotives for operation on the DHR, UNESCO has been informed that in order to supplement the existing fleet of steam locomotives which are varying in age from 72 years to 111 years, a decision was taken on the basis of the recommendations of the Asian Institute of Transport Development, for partial dieselisation of long distance service on DHR between new Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling, restricting the steam services to shorter sections between Darjeeling and Kurseong. This was done to give relief to the old steam locomotives and to preserve them for posterity. The Government has further taken a decision to procure three modern state-of-the-art oil fired steam locomotives to supplement the existing fleet of locomotives on DHR.